

This is an official
CDC Health Advisory

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Multi-state, Foodborne Hepatitis A Outbreak – Tennessee, Georgia, September 2003

On September 18, the Knox County (Tennessee) Health Department (KCHD) alerted EpiX that four cases of hepatitis A had occurred in food handlers employed at the O'Charley's Restaurant. At this time there are at least 57 cases of hepatitis A associated with O'Charley's Restaurants in Tennessee, and several others associated with O'Charley's Restaurants in Georgia and potentially in at least one additional state. Most cases identified to date have onset dates clustered around early to mid-September. An investigation to determine the source of the outbreak is underway. Cases of hepatitis A should be interviewed regarding exposure to O'Charley's Restaurants. O'Charley's is a regional chain with restaurants located in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. Cases of hepatitis A associated with this outbreak should be reported to CDC directly and to state or local health departments; available serum should be frozen and saved for molecular testing at CDC. Please call Dr. Joe Amon at CDC (404)371-5461 to report cases and arrange shipment of serum.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

This Message was distributed to State and Local Health Officials, State HAN Coordinators, State Epidemiologists, State Lab Directors, State Public Health Information Officers, and State Health Officers.

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